



City of Durham Durham County

Joint News Release

For Immediate Release: October 8, 2015

News Media Contacts:

Amy Blalock
Sr. Public Affairs Specialist, City of Durham
(919) 560-4123, ext. 11253
Amy.Blalock@DurhamNC.gov

Dawn Dudley
Public Information Officer, Durham County
(919) 560-0008
ddudley@dconc.gov



Durham Encourages Residents to Help Prevent Cankerworm Tree Damage

Trees Across Durham Offering Free Workshops and Tree-Banding Materials

DURHAM, N.C. – Residents interesting in preventing the damaging effects of cankerworms on Durham's trees should volunteer now to take action to protect their own trees and others in the community.

[Trees Across Durham](#), a broad-based partnership dedicated to making Durham a healthier and greener community by planting and protecting trees, is offering free workshops and free tree-banding materials as part of the new "[Band Together](#)" Campaign to help residents tackle cankerworms, which have reached outbreak levels in Durham over the last few years.

According to Urban Forestry Manager Alex Johnson with the [City of Durham General Services Department](#), cankerworms are more than just a nuisance. "Cankerworms deplete affected trees' ability to respond to stress by stripping them of their early spring leaves, which forces them to re-grow their canopies from stored reserves before they can begin to generate the nutrients they need to grow and defend themselves," Johnson said. "Cankerworms are also a nuisance, descending from tree canopies onto cars, houses, lawns, sidewalks, and people. They are indiscriminate feeders upon all plants while they make their way from their hatching sites in the trees to the ground where they pupate."

One of the most effective ways to reduce cankerworm populations and save trees is through tree banding. The banding process includes wrapping trees with a sticky barrier, which blocks the flightless female moths from crawling to the tops of trees and laying eggs. This successful

technique stops the cankerworms from reproducing which reduces their populations and their damaging effects when a majority of trees in an area are properly banded.

Workshops planned for this month will teach residents how to properly band their own trees, and volunteer days are set to target several neighborhoods for tree band installations.

Residents are encouraged to [register](#) for the workshops and volunteer banding days to get updates on locations or rescheduling.

Workshops:

- Thursday, October 15, 7:30 p.m. - [Durham County Main Library](#), 300 N. Roxboro St.
- Sunday, October 25, 2:30 p.m. - [Durham County Main Library](#), 300 N. Roxboro St.
- Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m. – [Durham County Cooperative Extension](#), 721 Foster St.

Volunteer Banding Days:

- Thursday, October 15, 2 p.m. – Walltown, meet at the intersection of Green and Berkeley streets
- Thursday, December 3, 1 p.m. – Old North Durham, meet at Bay-Hargrove Park, 208 Hargrove St.
- Tuesday, December 8, 1 p.m. – Walltown, meet at the intersection of Green and Berkeley streets

Residents who plan to install tree bands on their own trees should do so by Halloween, and then apply the special glue by the first hard freeze (usually around Thanksgiving). Bands should be removed by May 1 to prevent rot during the hot, humid months.

For the second year in a row, the [Durham County Main Library](#), located at 300 N. Roxboro St., will have free tree banding kits available for checkout by October 16 until the end of December. Kits include materials and tools to band approximately two medium-sized trees. Durham County received the [National Association of Counties](#) Achievement Award for offering this innovative banding kit check-out program last year.

The “[Band Together](#)” Campaign is a partnership between [Trees Across Durham](#), [City of Durham](#), [Durham County](#), [Keep Durham Beautiful](#), and other community organizations to

encourage residents to take steps now to reduce cankerworms. For more information about cankerworms, including a [video](#) which explains how to band a tree, as well as workshops and volunteer days, visit [Trees Across Durham](#), [email](#), or call (919) 560-7993.

About Trees Across Durham

[Trees Across Durham](#) is a broad-based partnership dedicated to making Durham a healthier and greener community now and in the future through the planting and protection of trees, the education of tree care-takers and the general public about how to maintain healthy trees, and the measurement and communication of the benefits trees provide to our environment and community.

About the General Services Department

The [City of Durham General Services Department](#) creates, manages and maintains City properties to provide best value to the Durham community. The core business functions include: Administration/Business Services, Facilities Operations, Landscape Services, Urban Forestry, Real Estate, Project Management, Cemeteries, and Keep Durham Beautiful. As guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), General Services serves as a steward of the City's physical and environmental assets. Through annual and long-range facility planning activities, the department plans, provides, and maintains the City's facilities infrastructure, which supports the community's quality of life and serves as a foundation of a healthy economy.

###